

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A dispersion or solution of a polymer in water, organic solvents or mixtures thereof, wherein the polymer comprises at least 0.001 mol of 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups (calculated at 109 g/mol) per 100 g of polymer.

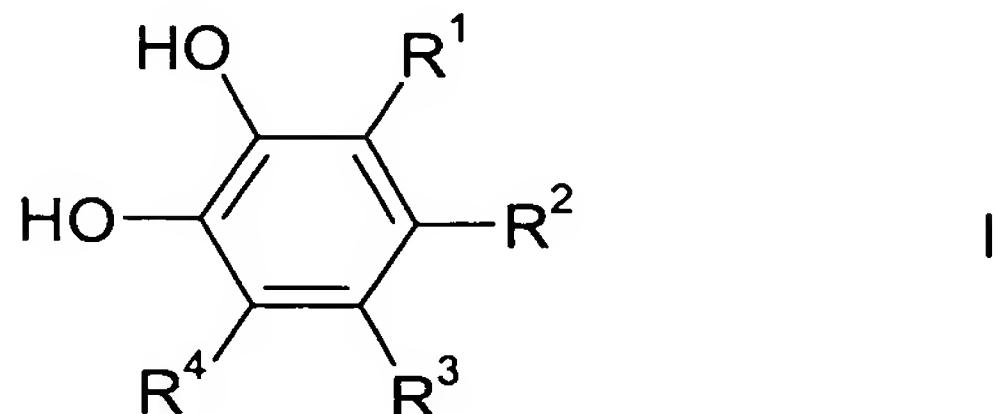
Claim 2 (Original): The dispersion or solution according to claim 1, which is an aqueous dispersion or solution.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The dispersion or solution according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the polymer is a polymer obtainable by free-radical addition polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated compounds.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The dispersion or solution according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the polymer is synthesized from at least 40% by weight of principal monomers selected from C₁ to C₂₀ alkyl (meth)acrylates, vinyl esters of carboxylic acids comprising up to 20 carbon atoms, vinyl aromatics having up to 20 carbon atoms, ethylenically unsaturated nitriles, vinyl halides, vinyl ethers of alcohols comprising 1 to 10 carbon atoms, aliphatic hydrocarbons having 2 to 8 carbon atoms and one or two double bonds or mixtures of these monomers.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The dispersion or solution according to ~~one of claims 3 and 4~~ claim 4, wherein the 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups are present in the polymer by copolymerization with monomers containing 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups.

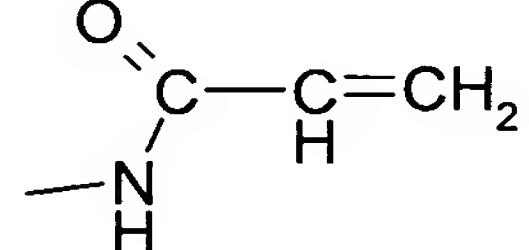
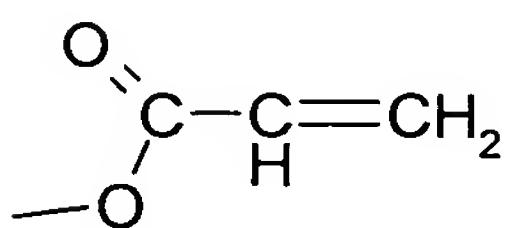
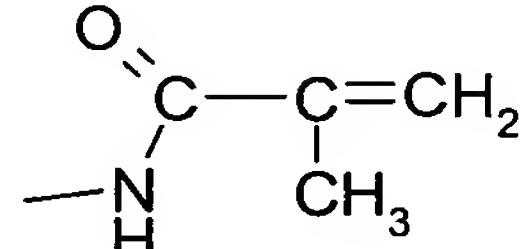
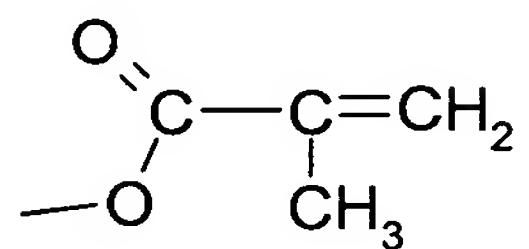
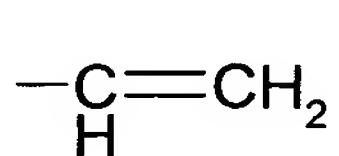
Claim 6 (Original): The dispersion or solution according to claim 5, wherein the monomers containing 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups are those of the formula



in which at least one of the radicals R¹ to R⁴ is an organic radical comprising at least one free-radically polymerizable ethylenically unsaturated group, may consist in total of up to 50 carbon atoms and if appropriate also comprises heteroatoms such as O, N or S, and the remaining radicals are organic radicals without a copolymerizable group or are hydrogen.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The dispersion or solution according to claim 5 [[or 6]], wherein the monomers containing 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups are those in which at least one of the radicals R¹ to R⁴ is a group -Y-X, where

X is selected from



and

Y is a single bond or is a divalent spacer group having up to 30 carbon atoms and if appropriate heteroatoms such as O, N or S.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The dispersion or solution according to ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 4, wherein the glass transition temperature of the polymer is less than +10°C, preferably less than 0°C.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The dispersion or solution according to ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 7, wherein the pH of the dispersion or solution is less than 7.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The [[use of]] method of using the dispersion or solution according to ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 as adhesive, sealant, coating material or impregnating composition.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The [[use]] method of using according to claim 10, wherein the dispersion or solution is stored oxygen-free prior to use and comes into contact with oxygen only upon use.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The [[use]] according to claim [[10 or]] 11, wherein the dispersion or solution has a pH of less than 4 prior to use and this pH is increased to more than 4 upon use.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The [[use]] method of using according to ~~one of claims 10 to 12~~ claim 10, wherein the use takes place under water.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): Free-radically polymerizable monomers containing 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl groups and at least one free-radically polymerizable double bond, obtainable by reacting compounds I of claim 6 having a 3,4 dihydroxyphenyl group which is

substituted by at least one further organic radical containing a hydroxyl group or carboxyl group with compounds II which contain at least one free-radically polymerizable double bond and at least one group which is reactive toward compounds I, [[e.g.,]] selected from a hydroxyl, carboxyl or epoxy group.

Claim 15 (Original): Monomers according to claim 14, wherein compounds I are substituted by a hydroxyalkyl group and compounds II comprise an ethylenically unsaturated acid.

Claim 16 (Original): Monomers according to claim 14, wherein compounds I are substituted by a carboxyl group and compounds II comprise ethylenically unsaturated epoxides.